US ERA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

DATA EVALUATION RECORD

PAGE 1 OF

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MR	ID:	158333				
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- 1. Chemical: Phorate
- 2. Test Material: Technical 92.1%
- 3. Study/Action Type: Avian reproduction

Bobwhite quail (Colinus virginianus)

- 4. Study ID: MRID 158333. Beavers, J. (1986) Phorate technical: A one-generation reproduction study with the bobwhite (Colinus virginianus). Final report: Project No. 130-141. Unpublished study prepared by Wildlife International, Ltd. [5835]
- 5. Reviewed By: Ann Stavola

Aquatic Biologist

HED/EEB

Signature:

6. Approved By: Douglas Urban

Supervisory Biologist

HED/EEB

Signature:

Date:

7. Conclusions:

The study is not scientifically sound and does not meet EPA guideline requirements for an avian reproduction study with bobwhite since 25 percent of the control pens did not reproduce normally.

8. Recommendations:

A new study is needed.

9. Background:

Avian reproduction studies were required in the Phorate Registration Standard, 1983.

10. Materials and Methods:

- a. Test Animals Bobwhite quail (Colinus virginianus).
 Pen-reared, healthy, phenotypically indistinguishable
 from wild birds. Purchased from Barrett's Quail Farm,
 Houston, Texas. All were from the same hatch and approximately 25 weeks old and approaching their first breeding
 season at the start of the study.
- b. Test System-Adults There were one male and one female quail in each pen, 30 x 51 cm with sloping floors so the height ranged from 21 to 26 cm. Every week a 7-day supply of food was placed in each pen. Water was provided ad libitum. The average temperature and relative humidity in the study room were 69 ± 4 °F and 67 percent, respectively. The air system in the room constantly replaced the room's air with fresh air. For the first 8 weeks of the study, the photoperiod was 8L:16D. During week 9 it was adjusted to 17L:7D and stayed at this photoperiod until the adult birds were sacrificed. The strength of the light was 12 footcandles.

The test diets were prepared by mixing phorate technical, (92.1% a), corn oil, and acetone with the basal diet. The final concentrations of phorate fed to the adults were 5, 20 and 60 ppm in addition to control pens. The adults were not fed any medication in their food.

- c. Egg Collection and Incubation Eggs were collected daily, fumigated with formaldehyde gas to prevent pathogen contamination and stored in a cold room at 55 ± 2 °F and 76% RH until they were placed in incubators. Incubation was done on a weekly basis. The incubator had a temperature of 99.2 ± 0.2 °F and RH of 55%. The incubator rotated the eggs every hour in a 100 ° arc for 21 days to prevent adhesion of the embryos.
- d. Hatching On day 21, the eggs were transferred to hatchers where the temperature and RH were respectively, 98.9 ± 0.4 °F and 77%. All hatchlings, unhatched eggs and egg shells were removed on day 25 or 26.
- e. Chicks The chicks were fed untreated diet and received no medication. They were housed in pens, 72 x 90 x 23 cm high. Temperature was 100 °F from the time of hatching until 14 days old. The photoperiod was 17L:7D.
- f. Study Design The phases of the study were:
 - 1) Acclimation Approximately 7 weeks.
 - 2) Pre-photostimulation Approximately 9 weeks.

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- 3) Pre-egg laying (with photostimulation) Approximately 3 weeks.
- Egg-laying Approximately 10 weeks.
- 5) Post-adult sacrifice (final incubations, hatching, 14-day offspring rearing periods) Approximately 6 weeks.

The treatment groups were: control, 5 ppm, 20 ppm, and 60 ppm. The test material was phorate technical grade, 92.1% ai.

g. Observations-Adult Bird Observations - Daily for signs of toxicity or abnormal behaviα; weekly for food consumption for each pen; body weights at initiation, weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8 and at terminal sacrifice; post-mortem necropsy at death or at end of adult phase of study.

Eggs

- Eggs laid.
- Egg shell thickness: Weekly throughout egg-laying period one egg was collected from each of the odd numbered pens in odd weeks and even numbered pens in even weeks. The eggs were opened at the mid-section, washed out and air-dried for 1 week at ambient temperature. The shell plus membrane were measured at 5 points with a micrometer to the nearest 0.005 mm.
- Eggs cracked: Determined by candling eggs before placing into incubators.
- Eggs set: The number laid minus the numbers cracked for each pen and studied for egg shell thickness.
- Viable embryos: Determined by candling on day 11 of incubation.
- Live 3-week embryos determined by candling on day 21 of incubation.
- Hatchlings: The number that hatched per pen and the average body weight of the hatchlings by pen was determined.
- Chicks: On day 14 after hatching, the average body weight by parental pen was determined.

atistical Analysis:

Dunnett's method was used to determine statistically gnificant differences between the control group and each treatment group. Sample units were the individual pens for each group. If an adult quail died during the study, the pen was not used in the analyses. The following parameters were analyzed with statistics:

Adult body weight
Adult feed consumption
Eggs laid of the maximum laid (64 was the maximum by one hen)
Eggs cracked of eggs laid
Viable embryos of eggs set
Live 3-week embryos of viable embryos
14-day old survivors of hatchlings
14-day old survivors of eggs set
Hatchlings of maximum set (58 eggs was the maximum set by one hen)
Offspring's body weight
Egg shell thickness

12. Reported Results:

Five adults died during the study. They were a male at 5 ppm during week 12, 2 hens at 20 ppm during week 8, a male at 60 ppm during week 10 and a male at 60 ppm during week 16. Necropsies indicated a varied number of external lesions such as on the feet, legs, nostrils, and head. Internal changes included weight loss, lung lesions and fluid accumulation.

Other adults exhibited lesions or abnormal behavior associated with pen wear and tear or cannibalism.

When gross necropsies were done on all birds still alive at the end of the study, foot and head lesions were evident in control quail as well as treated quail. In addition, changes such as yolk peritonitis, egg in abdominal cavity, and juvenile ovary were more common in control quail than in any treatment group. Regressed ovaries were observed in quail fed 20 and 60 ppm phorate.

There were no treatment-related effects on body weight at any concentration of phorate. There were no treatment-related effects on food consumption at 5 ppm or 20 ppm. There were statistically significant increases in consumption at these levels during 2 to 3 weeks. The birds fed 60 ppm had significant decreases in consumption during weeks 1 and 5 and significant increases during weeks 3, 4, 6, and 8.

There were no apparent treatment-related effects at any tested concentration on any of the reproductive parameters. There were no treatment-related reductions in egg shell thickness at any concentration. Eggs from the 20 ppm group had a slight, but statistically significant increase in egg shell thickness, but the authors did not believe it was treatment-related. The body weights of the hatchlings and 14-day-old chicks were similar for all 4 groups.

13. Study Author's Conclusions/QA Statement:

"Dietary concentrations of phorate technical up to 60 ppm did not result in mortality, overt signs of toxicity, or effects upon reproductive parameters among bobwhite during an exposure of 21 weeks. When compared with the control, there was a reduction in feed consumption at 60 ppm during the first week of the study. However, there were no apparent treatment-related effects upon body weights of adults or body weights of hatchlings at any of the concentrations tested."

QA Statement: "This study was conducted so as to conform with Good Laboratory Practices as published by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency"

14. Reviewer's Evaluation and Interpretation of the Study

Test Procedure - The test procedures used follow those a. in EPA's Pesticide Assessment Guidelines Subdivision E, EPA-540/9-82-024, October 1982. However a review of the data for numbers of eggs laid by pen for each group (Appendix VII) indicate that there was a problem with the control quail. According to Rick Bennett of EPA's ERL of Corvallis, OR (pers. comm., 7-7-88), who conducts avian reproduction studies for EPA, a pair of penned quail normally produces approximately one egg per day. At times 5 percent to 10 percent of the quail do not reproduce, and they have determined that the most likely cause is incompatibility between mates which can be caused by differences in body sizes, aggression, or poor husbandry. However, this incompatability is normally evident prior to egg production so those pens can be culled from the study.

In this study, control pens 4, 6, 14, and 15 produced 12 or fewer eggs; in fact, pen 15 produced none. These numbers were compared with those from other bobwhite quail studies done by WIL. In these comparison studies, control quail produced approximately 20 to 50 eggs per pen. Something happened to the control birds in this phorate study. Some of the control females had head and foot lesions. Also, as indicated above, one control

female had a juvenile ovary, and one had an egg lodged in the abdominal cavity. There were also signs of yolk peritonitis. These data indicate that the control quail were stressed and not reproducing normally. For these reasons, the study is not acceptable.

 Statistical Analysis - None were done due to problems with the controls which mask any treatment - caused effects.

c. Conclusions

- 1) Category Invalid Supplemental (see attached meno
- 2) Rationale Failure of 25 percent of control pens to reproduce normally.
- 3) Reparability A new study is needed.

Summary of Phorate Effects on Bobwhite Quail Reproduction Parameters

	Nominal Concentration of Phorate			
Parameter	0	5	20	60
Eggs laid	63.9	600	500	450
Total number	517	600	500	450
Number/hen	32 + 18	40 + 14	36 <u>+</u> 20	32 + 15
Eggs cracked				
Total number	30	37	26	24
Number/hen		2	2	2
% of eggs laid	2 5	2 7	5	4
Eags och				
Eggs set Total number	417	483	412	365
	81	81	82	81
% of eggs laid	ΟŢ	01		
Viable embryos (11-day)			21/	
Total number	364	421	277	333
% of eggs laid	70	70	55	74
% of eggs set	85	86	73	90
Live embryos (21-day)				
Total Number	361	420	275	332
% of viable embryos	97	100	99	99
Hatchlings		225	065	200
Total number	329	396	265	322
% of eggs laid	64	66	53	72
% of eggs set	79	82	64	88
% of viable embryos	90	94	96	97
% of live embryos	93	94	97	96
14-Day Old Chicks				
Total number	307	356	250	298
Number/hen	19	24	. 18	21
% of normal hatchlings	94	89	94	87
Average hatchling weight				
(g)	7	7	7	7
Average 14-Day Old	20		20	20
chick weight (g)	29	29	28	30
Mean Adult Weight				
At study termination				
Females (g/bird)	234	239	239	240
Males (g/bird)	223	229	226	218

Summary of Phorate Effects on Bobwhite Quail Reproduction Parameters (Cont'd)

•	Nominal	Concentrat	ion of Pho	orate
Parameter	0	5	20	60
Mean change from study initiation Females (g/bird) Males (g/bird)	+30 +14	+32 +15	+26 +16	+31 +14
Mean eggshell thickness (mm)	$0.219 \\ \pm 0.019$	0.227 + 0.015	0.235 + 0.020	0.220 + 0.011
Average feed Consumption (g/bird/day) Pre-egg production Egg production Mean total	192 253 445	207 273 480	208 279 487	207 270 477

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